

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claim 49 and amended claims 44 and 50 as set forth above. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The Office has rejected claims 44-50 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0194112 to dePinto et al. (dePinto) in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0130945 to Force, et al. (Force). The Office asserts, dePinto (a) performing a transaction, by a client, with a first service provider (§ 0074); (b) collecting feedback data pertaining to the transaction (§ 0185); (c) transmitting, to a directory service, a request for a provider of a second service (§ 0189); (d) transmitting, to the directory service, at least a portion of the feedback data (§§ 0192-93); (e) receiving, from the directory service, a response based on the request and the portion of the feedback data (§ 0208). Further, the Office asserts dePinto teaches the response comprises a plurality of service locations (§ 0208), further comprising selecting, from the plurality of service locations, a desired service location at least partly based on the feedback data (§ 0207).

Neither dePinto nor Force, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, “receiving, from the directory service, a response based on the request and the portion of the feedback data, wherein the response comprises a plurality of service locations . . . selecting, by the client, from the plurality of service locations a desired service location based on the feedback data” as recited in claim 44. In dePinto, a client creates a job request with a variety of options (§ [0192]). The job request is then disclosed in a staged disclosure process to members with a reputation above a threshold (§ [0198], [0207] in dePinto). The members have the option to accept and perform the job. After the members accept the job, they submit their acceptance to the exchange (§ [0208] in dePinto). Based upon the quality of the work, the client posts feedback after the job is performed (§ [0232] in dePinto). Thus, dePinto acts as a job-posting board that allows a client to specify who receives an early notification of the job, and who does not receive the job notification at all (Abstract). In dePinto, a client posts a job, and a member views, accepts, and performs the job.

By contrast, in the claimed invention, a client requests a list of service locations and selects one. The claimed invention acts as a job-selecting board, allowing the client to view a list of service locations and select a service location at least partly based on feedback. In the claimed invention, the recipients do not have the option of accepting and performing a job, as in dePinto, but rather the client selects a service location from a list. In

the claimed invention, the service locations or recipients do not have the option of accepting and performing a job, as taught by dePinto.

Force is directed to an electronic transaction processing server for exchanging electronic transaction files between a plurality of participating systems (Summary of the Invention). Applicants submit that Force does not cure the deficiencies of dePinto, and that Force does not teach, disclose or suggest allowing the client to view a list of service locations and select a service location at least partly based on feedback, as is claimed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 44. Since claims 45-48 and 50 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 44, they are distinguishable over the cited references and patentable in the same manner as claim 44.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicant submit this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Jessica M. Egner, Reg. No. 51,646/
Jessica M. Egner
Registration No. 51,646

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603-1051
Telephone: (585) 263-1014
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600